

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00829 220948Z

14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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AID-05 ACDA-07 PC-01 SCCT-01 /082 W

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R 210923Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4836

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING ON MAPAI

REF: MAPUTO 0755

1.SUMMARY: LAST TWO ISSUES OF TEMPO, WEEKLY MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN MAPUTO, HAVE CLAIMED THAT BLACK MOZAMBICANS BELONGING TO DISBANDED PORTUGUESE ELITE MILITARY UNITS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SACKING MAPAI ON JUNE 26. MEMBERS OF THESE DEMOBILIZED UNITS ARE NOW SAID TO BE IN THE EMPLOY OF THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. JULY 11 AND 18 ISSUES OF MAPUTO WEEKLY CARRIED LONG ARTICLES ON RHODESIAN-ENGINEERED ATTACK ON MAPAI, SIXTH MILES INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE, ON JUNE 26. FIRST ARTICLE ENTITLED "FIVE HOURS OF MASSACRE AND DESTRUCTION" ACCUSED RENEGADE MOZAMBICANS, FORMERLY MEMBERS OF SPECIAL PORTUGUESE PARA-MILITARY UNITS (GRUPOS ESPECIAS), OF HAVING TAKEN PART IN THE MAPAI ATTACKS ALONG WITH RHODESIANS. ARTICLE CALLED THE MOZAMBICANS TRAITORS WHO AFTER INDEPENDENCE FLED TO RHODESIA WHERE THEY WERE INTEGRATED INTO THE RHODESIAN ARMY.

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00829 220948Z

3. ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THE MOZAMBICAN/RHODESIAN ATTACKERS WORE UNIFORMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE FRELIMO SOLDIERS AND LULLED THE POPULATION ALONG THE 90 KILOMETER ROUTE TO MAPAI INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY BY SPEAKING PORTUGUESE, CARRYING FRELIMO STANDARDS AND SHOUTING FRELIMO SLOGANS.

4. MAGAZINE ALSO SAID THAT ATTACK WAS LED BY SERGIO PAIS MAMEDE, PORTUGUESE CITIZEN FORMERLY RESIDENT IN MOZAMBIQUEWM NAMEDE, WHO HAS LARGE BUSINESS HOLDINGS IN MAPAI, ARRIVED RHODESIA BY HELICOPTER SHORTLY BEFORE THE ATTACK BEGAN, MOST OF THE FORMER MAMEDE PROPERTY, INCLUDING A LOCAL TRANSPORT COMPANY, WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED DURING THE ATTACK.

5. REVISED CASUALTY FIGURES LISTED 18 CIVILIANS AND THREE "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" KILLED, AS WELL AS NINE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND SEVEN CIVILIANS INJURED. A NUMBER OF THE SLAIN CIVILAINS WERE CHILDREN, INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL INHABITANTS DREW APPEALS FOR ARMS SO THAT THESE INHABITANTS COULD RETALIATE WITH ATTACKS ON THE ENEMY'S TERRITORY. LOCAL JOURNALISTS WHO WROTE ARTICLES STATED THEY WERE LEFT WITH THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF THE POPULATION CONSTITUTED THE MAJOR BARRIER AGAINST IAN SMITH AND HIS "FASCIST RACIST TROOPS."

6 COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT DISAFFECTED RENEGADE MOZAMBICANS WERE INVOLVED IN MAPAI ATTACKS, AND THAT FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ELITE BLACK UNITS ARE NOW WORKING FOR THE RHODESIANS. AT THE TIME OF THE APRIL 1974 COUP IN LISBON, THERE WERE BETWEEN 10,000 AND 20,000 OF THESE HIGHLY TRAINED ELETE BLACK TROOPS IN PORTUGAL'S COLONIAL ARMY IN MOZAMBIQUE. IF A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM HAVE ESCAPED TO RHODESIA AND ARE COLLABORATING WITH THE RHODESCANS, THEY COULD CAUSE GPRM SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND PROLONG LIFE EXPECTANCY OF SNITH REGIME.  
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